

The British Waterfowl Association

Rules

1. Title

The Association shall be called the “British Waterfowl Association”.

2. Rules

These Rules shall supersede all existing Rules governing the British Waterfowl Association.

3. Objectives

The objectives of the Association are as follows:

- i) To promote the study and conservation of waterfowl, and
- ii) To carry out research and undertake activities to promote knowledge and interest in waterfowl, and
- iii) To provide facilities for the education of the public to the greater appreciation of waterfowl.

4. Council

- i) The Association shall be governed by a Council consisting of a President, an elected Vice President, and nine elected Members.
- ii) A new Vice President shall be elected every three years at the appropriate Annual General Meeting and the retiring Vice President shall assume the office of President for the ensuing three calendar years.
- iii) The three longest serving elected Members of the Council (other than the Vice President) shall retire each year but shall be eligible for re-election at the Annual General Meeting.
- iv) The Council shall be empowered to employ a Secretary and Treasurer (who may be one and the same person).

5. Council Meetings

- i) Ordinary meetings of the Council shall be held at intervals, as decided by the President, but not less than three meetings shall be held in each calendar year. One of these meetings shall be held during October or November for the purpose of considering, perhaps inter alia, the Annual Accounts and the Agenda for the next Annual General Meeting.
- ii) A Special meeting of the Council shall be convened by the President not more than fourteen days after he shall have received a demand in writing to convene such a meeting, signed by not less than three Members of the Council (other than the President) and stating the reason for the demand.
- iii) The Secretary shall give to each member of the Council notice in writing of every meeting and such notice shall be accompanied by an Agenda for the meeting. Such notice and agenda shall be posted not less than fifteen days before the date of the Council Meeting to which they relate.

- iv) At every Council meeting four Members shall form a quorum. The chair shall be taken by the President or, in the absence of the President by the Vice President or, in the absence of both the President and Vice President, by another member elected for the purpose by all the Members present.
- v) All resolutions of the Council shall be effected by a simple majority vote. In the event of the votes for and against a resolution being equal, the Chairman shall have a deciding vote.
- vi) The Council shall use its best offices to appoint an Honorary Auditor, one or more Honorary Legal Advisors, and one or more Honorary Veterinary Officers who shall all be ex officio Honorary Members of the Association.

6. General Meetings

- i) The Annual General Meeting of the Association shall be held each year during December of the year to which the meeting relates or no later than the end of March of the following year
- ii) An Extraordinary General Meeting of the Association shall be held within twenty eight days of a demand for such a meeting, appropriately set out in writing and signed by twelve paid up Members, being submitted to the Secretary. Such demand shall give the reason for holding the meeting and the resolutions it is proposed to put forward at the meeting. No other business may be transacted at such a meeting and, to become effective each of the resolutions set out in the written demand shall require a vote in favour of not less than two thirds of the Members present.
- iii) The Secretary shall give to each member of the Association Notice in writing of each General Meeting and such Notice shall be accompanied by an Agenda for the meeting. Such Notice and Agenda shall be posted not later than fifteen days before the date of the General Meeting to which they relate. The Agenda for the Annual General Meeting shall include:
 - a) a Report by the President on the activities of the past year and the activities proposed for the following year and
 - b) the presentation by the Treasurer of the audited Accounts for the year ended the preceding 30th September.
 - c)

7. Area Representatives

The Council shall divide the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland into such areas as it may think fit and shall appoint one or more of the Members to represent each area. A list of these areas and representations shall be supplied to every member of the Association.

8. Membership

- i) All persons who are in sympathy with the objects of the Association and are willing to comply with the Rules may become Life, Annual or Cadet Members of the Association subject to the approval of the Council.

- ii) The Council may terminate the Membership of any Member but, before doing so shall invite the member to appear before it to make such representations as the Member may think fit.
- iii) The Life, Annual and Cadet subscriptions shall be such sums as shall from time to time be determined by the Council and approved by the Members at a General Meeting.
- iv) The Council may put forward at the Annual General Meeting resolutions that:
 - a) A member who has rendered special services to the Association should be appointed a Fellow of the Association.
 - b) Any person who has achieved distinction as a result of work connected with waterfowl should be appointed an Honorary member of the Association.

9. Amendments to Rules

These Rules may be amended only by a resolution effected at a General Meeting provided that no amendment shall be made which would cause the Association to cease to be a Charity at law. If a member intends to move a resolution at an Annual General Meeting to amend these Rules, at least twenty eight clear days notice in writing of such intention must be given to the Secretary.

10. Dissolution

In the event of the Association being wound up any assets remaining after the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities shall be paid or transferred to a charitable organisation or organisations having objects similar to those of the Association.

28th January 1978

Additions and Amendments to “The Constitution”

4. Council (Alteration)

- i) The Association shall be governed by a Council consisting of a President, and elected Vice President, nine elected Members, the retiring President in accordance with Section (v) and such number of Officers of the Association appointed as Ex Officio Members by the Council in accordance with Section (vi).
- v) The retiring President may remain on the Council immediately following his retirement for a period of a maximum three years with full voting rights. Thereafter he or she may seek re-election to the Council.
- vi) The Council may appoint Officers of the Association as Ex Officio Members of the Council with the right to vote on Council resolutions restricted to their area of authority as reviewed from time to time by Council.
- vii) The Council shall have the authority to co-opt full Council Members should a vacancy arise during the year for the period remaining of that year. Thereafter, such co-opted member(s) may seek re-election to the Council.

8. Membership (Addition)

v) The Council may appoint as a Patron of the B.W.A. a Member who has rendered great service to the Association and to the conservation and interests of waterfowl or a distinguished member who is very sympathetic to the aims of the Association.

9. Amendments to the Rules (Alteration)

If a member intends to move a resolution at an Annual General Meeting or a General Meeting to amend these Rules, the resolution must be published in a "Waterfowl" journal to give the Membership due notice of such a resolution. At the discretion of Council, it may rule that the implications of the resolution require a postal vote by the full Membership. The resolution would be approved by a majority of not less than two thirds of the Membership votes.

10. Appointment of Committees (Addition)

The Council may constitute Committees to be responsible for specific areas of the Association's activities such as Finance and General Purposes, Membership and Education, Wildfowl and Conservation, Publicity and Promotions, Domestic Waterfowl and Showing, Legislation and International Issues. The Council shall appoint Members of the Committees and nominate the Chairman. Each Committee shall have at least one full member of the Council and the Rules concerning the function and authority of the Committees shall be determined by the Council.

A M Newland
E C Hawkins
12 January 1993